

Message Text

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SUBJ: NATO TOURS

1. SUMMARY. AMCONSUL/USIS TRIESTE ORGANIZED RECENTLY TWO NATO TOURS FOR LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL LEADERS. THE FIRST GROUP WHICH ALSO INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GENOA AREA TRAVELED TO BRUSSELS, BERLIN, RAMSTEIN, AND VIENNA, FEBRUARY 19-24. SECOND GROUP, COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS FROM TRIESTE/VENICE AREA, VISITED AFSOUTH, SIGONELLA, AND USS NIMITZ, MARCH 10-15. VISITS BY ANY STANDARD WERE A SUCCESS, PRODUCING SO FAR IN THE TRIESTE/VENICE AREA ALONE 16 ARTICLES, 846 COLUMN INCHES AND 13 PHOTOS IN THE THREE REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS (COPIES POUCHED TO ROME -BURNETT). BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE, SUCH TOURS SHOULD WITHOUT DOUBT CONTINUE ALBEIT WITH SOME ADJUSTMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE NATO VISITS ARE WITHOUT DOUBT VALUABLE TOOL, WE MUST BE ALERT TO POSSIBLE ROUTINIZATION OF PROGRAMMING. DURING OUR TOURS, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME OF THE BRIEFINGS WERE PRETTY BASIC STUFF (WHICH IN THE ITALIAN CASE WAS STILL UNCLASSIFIED

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USEFUL), AND LACKED THE BROAD BRUSH FORWARD LOOKING VIEW AT THE POLICY LEVEL.

3. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE PROGRAMMING, WE MAY WISH TO HAVE FEWER GROUPS BUT WITH MORE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS NOT BE DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF REGIONAL PARTICIPATION. IN THE

NORTHEAST AT LEAST, LOCAL OPINION MOLDERS NOW HAVE AN ENHANCED APPRECIATION OF THINGS NATO AND ITALY'S ROLZ THEREIN WHICH HAS BEEN SHARED WITH A VERY BROAD READING AUDIENCE THROUGHOUT THIS AREA.

4. IN PLANNING FUTURE VISITS, WE MUST INSIST ON ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS. BRUSSELS SHOULD BE THE FIRST STOP WHERE THE GROUP SHOULD MEET WITH THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL OR A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FOLLOWED BY A MEETING WITH SACEUR OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE. THERE ARE OBVIOUS CONSTRAINTS HERE BUT WE SHOULD SHOOT FOR THE POLICY LEVEL.

5. SUBSEQUENT STOPS SHOULD INCLUDE A BALANCED MIX OF VISITS TO MAJOR HEADQUARTERS/COMMANDS AND OPERATIONAL UNITS, WHICH CAN OFFER A US AND A NATO POINT OF VIEW OF ALLIANCE AND DEFENSE POLICY. THUS, AFTER BRUSSELS, GROUPS MIGHT VISIT CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON FOLLOWED BY AFNORD OR AFSOUTH, AND VISIT TO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER. OTHER POSSIBILITIES WOULD INCLUDE VISIT TO CINCUSAFE AT RAMSTEIN WHICH HAS BOTH A US AND NATO HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONAL COMMANDA ON BASE, AND TO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG COUPLED WITH VISITS TO BERLIN AND/OR SECOND CAVALRY REGIMENT IN NURENBURG. A FINAL STOP WOULD BE A CALL AT A MAJOR NEGOTIATION SUCH AS MBFR OR SALT TWO.

6. IN ALL CASES, WE SHOULD ASSURE OURSELVES THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETINGS WILL BE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL BEFORE SCHEDULING ANY STOPS. AT RAMSTEIN FOR EXAMPLE, WE WERE BRIEFED BY THE DEPUTY CINCUSAFE AND DEPUTY AAFCE (BOTH LT. GENERALS) WHICH HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON THE GROUP.

7. GREAT CARE MUST BE ALSO GIVEN TO THE BANAL SIDE OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. OVER-SCHEDULING IS A DANGER AND BLUNTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRIP. DEPARTURE ON A SUNDAY AND HOME BY FRIDAY NIGHT OR SATURDAY MORNING SEEMS JUST ABOUT RIGHT WITH ABOUT THREE OR FOUR STOPS AT MOST DURING THE TRIP. OVERDOING IT INVARIABLY LEADS TO DAZED EXPRESSIONS BY THE FOURTH OR FIFTH DAY.

8. IN ITS PRESENT FORM, THE NATO TOUR IS AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM WHICH COULD EVEN BE BETTER. IN THE NORTHEAST, IT HAS PRODUCED EXCELLENT POSITIVE COVERAGE OF NATO AND ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES. MORE IMPORTANTLY IT HAS REMINDED YOUNG OPINION MOLDERS OF THE KEY ROLE THE ALLIANCE PLAYS IN THE DEFENSE OF ITALY S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND INSTITUTIONS AND SENSITIZED THEM TO THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF THE ALLIANCE TO ITALY AND TO THE COMMON DEFENSE SOME THIRTY YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING. MOEN.

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